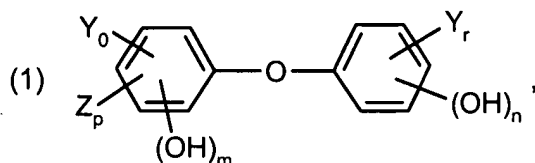


1. (currently amended): ~~Use~~ A method of inhibiting melanogenesis and for lightening skin, which comprises contacting said skin with a composition comprising

(a) a halogenated hydroxydiphenyl ether compound of formula



wherein

Y is chlorine or bromine,

Z is SO₂H, NO₂; or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

m is 0 or 1;

n is 1 or 2;

r is from 0 to 3;

o is from 1 to 3; and

p is 0, 1 or 2;

~~as a melanogenesis inhibitor and for lightening the skin.~~

2. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 1, wherein in formula (1)

m is 0; or 1;

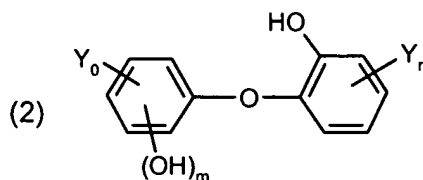
n is 1; or 2;

o is from 1 to 3;

p is 0; or 1; and

r is 1 or 2.

3. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula



wherein

m is 0; or 1;

o is from 1 to 3; and

r is 1 or 2.

4. (currently amended): A method Use according to claim 3, wherein in formula (2)

m is 0;

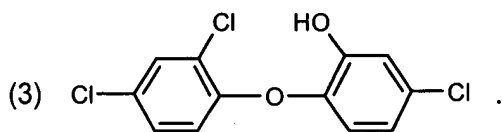
and o and r are as defined in claim 3.

5. (currently amended): A method Use according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein

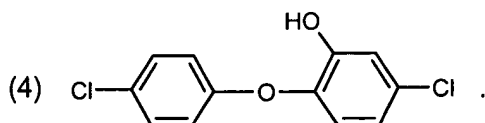
o is 1 or 2; and

r is 1.

6. (currently amended): A method Use according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula



7. (currently amended): A method Use according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula



8. (currently amended): A method Use according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound of formula (1) is used simultaneously for the antimicrobial treatment of the skin and mucosa and also of integumentary appendages (hair).

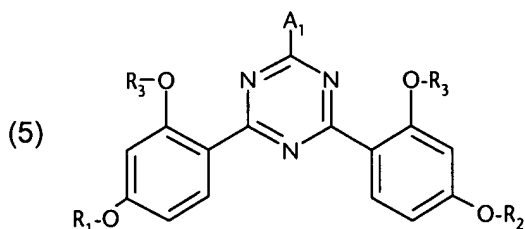
9. (currently amended): A method Use according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein there is additionally used, as component (b), a further skin-lightening substance.

10. (currently amended): A method Use according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 9, wherein component (b) is selected from kojic acid, arbutin, quercitin, aloesin, azelaic acid, guaiol, ellagic acid and ester compounds thereof and fluorescent whiteners.

11. (currently amended): A method ~~Use according to any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 9, wherein the ratio of components (a) : (b) is from 1 : 99, especially 5 : 95, and more especially from 10 : 90 to 99 : 1, preferably 95 : 5, and especially 90 : 10 % by weight of component (b).

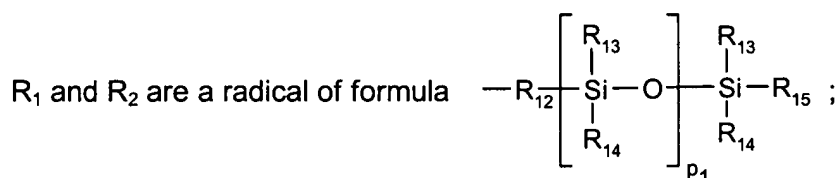
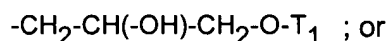
12. (currently amended): A method ~~Use according to any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, wherein the composition additionally comprises, as component (c), one or more UV-A and/or UV-B absorbers.

13. (currently amended): A method ~~Use according to claim 12~~, wherein there is used as UV-A or UV-B absorber a compound of formula

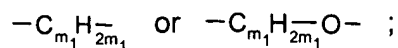


wherein

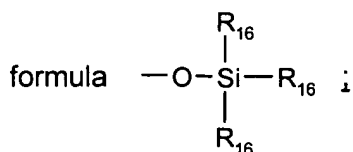
R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other C_1 - C_{18} alkyl; C_2 - C_{18} alkenyl; a radical of formula



R_{12} is a direct bond; a straight-chain or branched C_1 - C_4 alkylene radical or a radical of formula



R_{13} , R_{14} and R_{15} are each independently of the others C_1 - C_{18} alkyl; C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy or a radical of

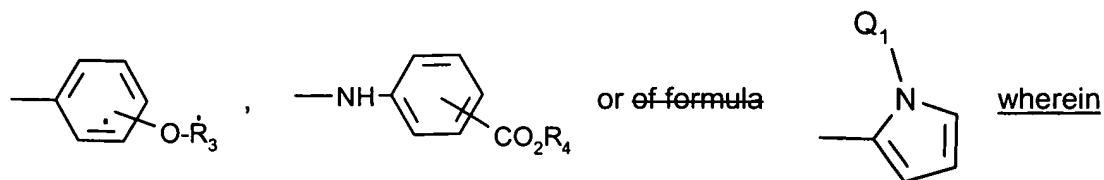


R_{16} is C_1 - C_5 alkyl;

m_1 and m_3 are each independently of the other from 1 to 4;

p_1 is 0 or a number from 1 to 5;

A_1 is a radical of formula



R_3 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, $-(CH_2CHR_5-O)_{n_1}-R_4$; or a radical of formula $-CH_2-CH(-OH)-CH_2-O-T_1$;

R_4 is hydrogen; M; C_1 - C_5 alkyl; or a radical of formula $-(CH_2)_{m_2}-O-T_1$;

R_5 is hydrogen; or methyl;

T_1 is hydrogen; or C_1 - C_8 alkyl;

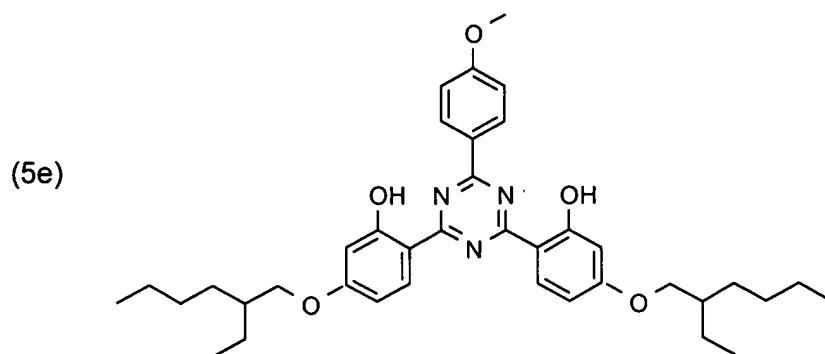
Q_1 is C_1 - C_{18} alkyl;

M is a metal cation;

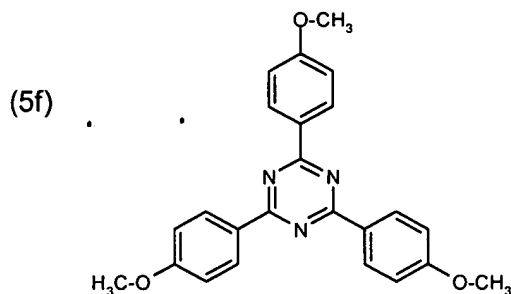
m_2 is from 1 to 4; and

n_1 is 1-16.

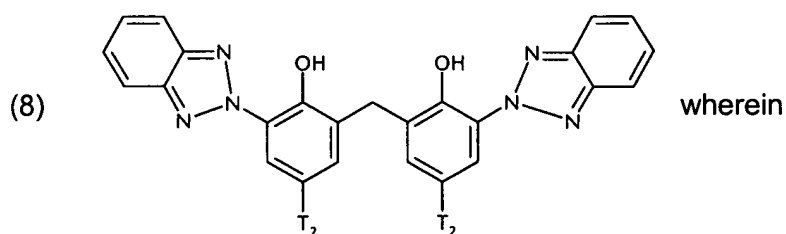
14. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~, wherein the composition comprises as component (c) the compound of formula



15. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~, wherein the composition comprises as component (c) the compound of formula



16. (currently amended): A method Use according to claim 12, wherein the composition comprises as component (c) the compound of formula



T_2 is C_1 - C_{12} alkyl.

17. (currently amended): A method Use according to claim 16, wherein T_2 is iso-octyl.

18. (currently amended): A method Use according to claim 12, wherein the composition comprises octyl methoxycinnamate as component (c).

19. (currently amended): A method Use according to claim 12, wherein the composition comprises benzophenone-3 as component (c).

20. (cancelled).

21. (currently amended): A method wherein Use of a composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 19~~ claim 1 is incorporated into cosmetic formulations.

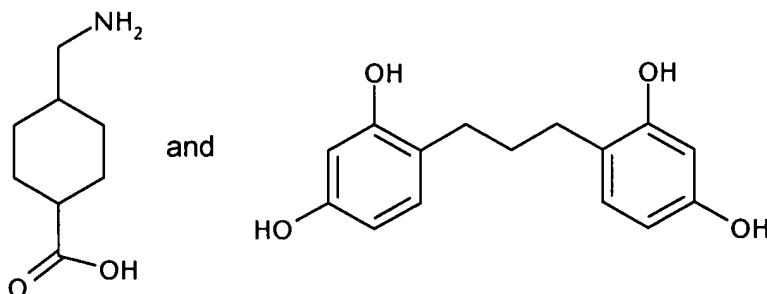
22. (currently amended): A method Use according to claim 21, wherein the composition is used in the form of an oil-in-water formulation, in a solvent formulation or in the form of a paste formulation.

23. (currently amended): ~~A method Use~~ according to claim 21 ~~or 22~~, wherein the proportion of the ~~mixture composition~~ in the formulation is from 0.01% to 10% parts by weight.

24. (currently amended): A cosmetic formulation, comprising

(a) a compound of formula (1) according to claim 1; and one or more of components (b) and/or (c):
wherein

(b) is a further skin-lightening active ingredient selected from the group consisting of pyrone derivatives, hydroquinone, hydroquinone glycosides, hydroquinone derivatives, resorcinol derivatives, glycine, glutathione, acetylcysteine, oligopeptides, alkyldicarboxylic acids, 1,2-dihydroxyphenyl derivatives, urea, allantoin, furanones, phenylacetaldehydes, benzaldehydes, 4-methoxycinnamaldehydes, isomeric decenoic acid, ascorbic acid and derivatives thereof, salicylic acid derivatives, phenolic substances, benzo[b]pyran derivatives, bornyl and cinnamate derivatives, azulene and derivatives thereof, cell messenger substances, fluorescent whiteners, and compounds of formulae



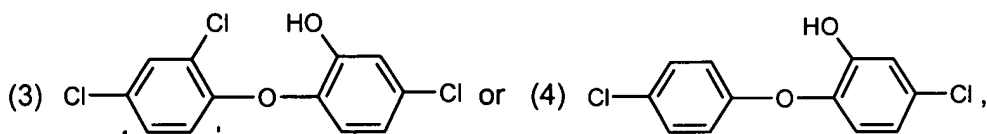
(c) is one or more UV-A and/or UV-B absorbers,
and optionally

(d) an antioxidant, and also cosmetically acceptable adjuvants or carriers.

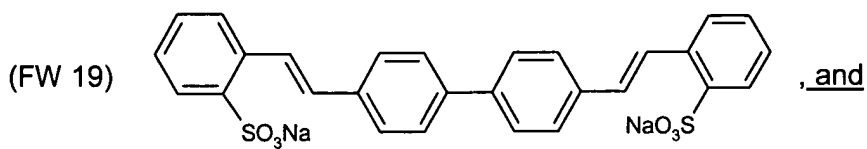
25. (currently amended): A cosmetic formulation according to claim 24, containing from 0.001 to 10 % by weight of, ~~preferably from 0.05 to 1 % by weight~~, component (a), from 0 to 10 % by weight of, ~~preferably from 0.05 to 1 % by weight~~, component (b), from 0 to 30 % by weight of, ~~preferably from 0.1 to 15 % by weight~~, component (c), and from 0 to 30 % by weight of, ~~preferably from 0.1 to 15 % by weight~~, component (d).

26. A cosmetic formulation, containing

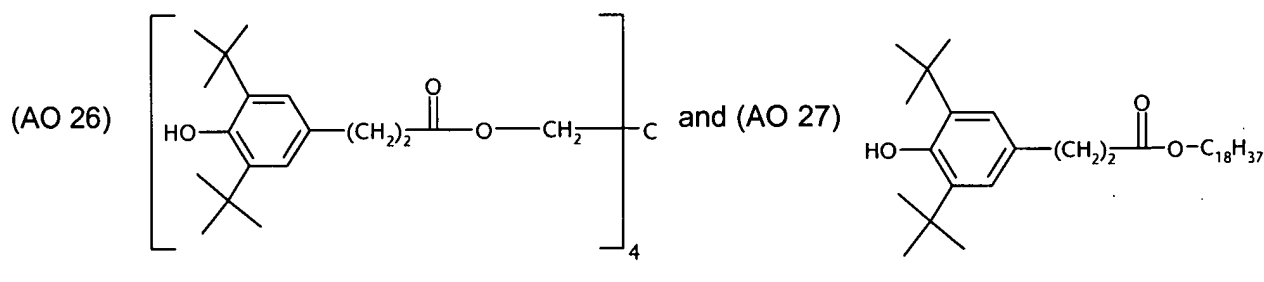
from 0.05 to 2 % of component (a), selected from the compound of formula



from 0.01 to 2 % of component (b), selected from the compound of formula



from 0.05 to 2 of % component (d), selected from the compound of formula



27. A method of inhibiting melanogenesis and for lightening skin, which comprises contacting said skin with an effective amount Use of a formulation according to claim 26 in surfactant-containing cleansing compositions.

28. (original): Cleansing composition, comprising

0.05 to 2 % b.w. of component (a),

0.001 to 2 % b.w. of component (b),

0 to 2 % b.w. of component (c),

0 to 2 % b.w. of component (d), and

0.1 to 10 % b.w. of one or more synthetic detergents or soaps or a combination of such substances, where components (a), (b), (c) and (d) are as defined in claim 24.

29. (currently amended): A cosmetic formulation according to claim 24, wherein component (b) is selected from the group consisting of kojic acid, α -arbutin, quercitin, aloesin, azelaic acid, guaiol, ellagic acid and esters thereof and also the fluorescent whiteners of formula

